

A² 7[(Amended)] Process according to claim 1, in which a co-solvent is added to the dense fluid under pressure.

A³ 10[(Amended)] Process according to claim 7, in which said co-solvent is added to the dense fluid under pressure with a content of 0.01 to 10% by weight.

A⁴ 12[(Amended)] Process for selective extraction of contaminating organic compounds from cork or a cork-based material, in which said material is treated by contacting said material with a dense fluid under pressure at a temperature of from 10 to 120°C and at a pressure of from 10 to 600 bars and adding a co-solvent to the dense fluid under pressure.

16[(Amended)] Extraction process according to claim 12, in which the dense fluid under pressure is CO₂ and the co-solvent is water or an aqueous solution.

AS 17[(Amended)] Treatment or extraction process according to claim 1, in which the fluid and the extracts are separated by one or several steps, after the treatment or the extraction by the dense fluid under pressure, and the gaseous fluid is recycled.

18[(Amended)] Process according to claim 1, in which said cork or said cork-based material is also subjected to a mechanical and/or chemical treatment before or after said treatment or said extraction by the dense fluid under pressure, and particularly treatment by hot or boiling water commonly called a "boiling treatment".

19[(Amended)] Process according to claim 1, in which said cork or said cork-based material is shaped before or after said treatment or said extraction using the dense fluid under pressure; or earlier than said optional mechanical and/or chemical treatment, preceding said treatment or said extraction by the dense fluid under pressure; or later than said optional mechanical and/or chemical treatment, following said treatment or said extraction by the dense fluid under pressure.

21. (Amended) Manufacturing process for bottle corks made of cork or made of a cork-base material, comprising at least one treatment or extraction step according to claim 1.

A6 22. (Amended) Manufacturing installation for parts made of cork or of a cork-based material such as bottle corks comprising a treatment or extraction installation by bringing said cork or said material into contact with a dense fluid under pressure under the conditions specified in claim 1, the said installation comprising: means of bringing the cork or a cork-based material into contact with a dense fluid under pressure in the form of an extractor or autoclave (1); means of circulating the fluid and bringing it to the dense state under pressure comprising a pump, a liquefier and a super-critical exchanger; separation means firstly for separating organic compounds extracted from said cork and said cork-based material in liquid form, and secondly the fluid in gaseous form; and means of recycling the fluid thus separated from the extractor by using the means of circulating the fluid and bringing it into the dense state and under pressure.

Please add the following new claims.

A7 24. (New) Process according to claim 8, in which said co-solvent is added to the dense fluid under pressure with a content of 0.01 to 10% by weight.

25. (New) Treatment or extraction process according to claim 12, in which the fluid and the extracts are separated by one or several steps, after the treatment or the extraction by the dense fluid under pressure, and the gaseous fluid is recycled.

26. (New) Process according to claim 12, in which said cork or said cork-based material is also subjected to a mechanical and/or chemical treatment before or after said treatment or said extraction by the dense fluid under pressure, and particularly treatment by hot or boiling water commonly called a "boiling treatment".

27. (New) Process according to claim 12, in which said cork or said cork-based material is shaped before or after said treatment or said extraction using the dense fluid under pressure; or earlier than said optional mechanical and/or chemical treatment, preceding said treatment or said extraction by the dense fluid under pressure; or later than said optional mechanical and/or chemical treatment, following said treatment or said extraction by the dense fluid under pressure.

A7 28. (New) Process according to claim 27, in which said cork or said cork-based material is put into the form of bottle corks, boards or sheets.

29. (New) Manufacturing process for bottle corks made of cork or made of a cork-based material, comprising at least one treatment or extraction step according to claim 12.

30. (New) Manufacturing installation for parts made of cork or of a cork-based material such as bottle corks comprising a treatment or extraction installation by bringing said cork or said material into contact with a dense fluid under pressure under the conditions specified in claim 12, the said installation comprising: means of bringing the cork or a cork-based material into contact with a dense fluid under pressure in the form of an extractor or autoclave (1); means of circulating the fluid and bringing it to the dense state under pressure comprising a pump, a liquefier and a super-critical exchanger; separation means firstly for separating organic compounds extracted from said cork and said cork-based material in liquid form, and secondly the fluid in gaseous form; and means of recycling the fluid thus separated from the extractor by using the means of circulating the fluid and bringing it into the dense state and under pressure.
